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issue of new matter, and request entry of these amendments and claims.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the following Reference Items 1-207 which are listed again on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (Exhibit C). Applicants request that the Examiner review the references and make them of record in the subject application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with the subject application. Accordingly, no fee is required and this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3).

Applicants point out that several of the listed references are counterparts of each other and are cumulative. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c), a counterpart of a reference is identified after the cite to the reference.

The subject application is a continuation of and claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of U.S. Serial No. 09/816,989, filed March 23, 2001. The below listed references 1-23, 25-27, 30-161, 163-201, 203-208 and 210-212 were submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("the Office") in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/816,989 in either the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 1, 2002 or the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed on

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August 21, 2002, October 18, 2002, and June 25, 2003. The below listed references 162, 202 and 209 were cited by the Examiner on PTO Form 892 issued on March 25, 2003 in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/816,989.

Accordingly, under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d) copies of references 1-23, 25-27, and 30-209 are not required to be provided to the United States Patent and Trademark Office because they were previously submitted to or cited by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in an application relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120.

Copies of the below listed references 24, 28 and 29 are enclosed herewith as **Exhibits 1-3**.

- U.S. Patent No. 3,849,550, issued November 19, 1974
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- U.S. Patent No. 3,991,210, issued November 9, 1976
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- U.S. Patent No. 4,339,431, issued July 13, 1982 (Gaffar);
- 4. U.S. Patent No. 5,204,099, issued April 20, 1993 (Barbier, et al.);
- 5. U.S. Patent No. 5,554,372, issued September 10, 1996 (Hunter et al.);

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- U.S. Patent No. 5,591,629, issued January 7, 1997 7. (Rodriguez et al);
- U.S. Patent No. 5,623,052, issued April 22, 1997 8. (McLean et al.);
- U.S. Patent No. 5,627,206, issued May 6, 1997 (Hupe, et 9. al.);
- U.S. Patent No. 5,668,117, issued September 16, 1997 10. (Shapiro et al.);
- U.S. Patent No. 5,719,296, issued February 17, 1998 11. (Acton, III, et al.);
- 12. U.S. Patent No. 5,734,023, issued March 31, 1998 (Bishwajit et al.);
- 13. U.S. Patent No. 5,800,808, issued September 1, 1998 (Konfino, et al.);
- 14. U.S. Patent No. 5,858,964, issued January 12, 1999 (Aharoni, et al.);
- 15. U.S. Patent No. 5,886,156, issued March 23, 1999 (McLean et al.);
 - 16. U.S. Patent No. 5,958,972, issued September 28, 1999 (Hupe, et al.);

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- 18. U.S. Patent No. 6,048,898, issued April 11, 2000 (Konfino, et al.);
- U.S. Patent No. 6,054,430, issued April 25, 2000 19. (Konfino, et al.);
- U.S. Patent No. 6,214,791, issued April 10, 2001 20. (Arnon, et al.);
- 21. U.S. Patent No. 6,342,476, issued January 29, 2002 (Konfino, et al.);
- 22. U.S. Patent No. 6,362,161, issued March 26, 2002, (Konfino et al.);
- 23. U.S. Patent No. 6,514,938, issued February 4, 2003 (Gad et al.);
- 24. U.S. Patent No. 6,620,847, issued September 16, 2003 (Konfino, et al.) (Exhibit 1)
- 25. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2001-0055568-A1, published December 27, 2001 (Gilbert et al.);
- 26. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2002-0037848-A1, published March 28, 2002 (Eisenbach-Schwartz et al.);

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27. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2002-0107388-A1,
 published August 8, 2002 (Vandenbark);

- 28. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0115103-A1 (U.S. Serial No. 09/816,989, filed March 23, 2001) published August 22, 2002 (Gad et al.) (Exhibit 2). Applicants point out that 2002-0115103-A1 is a counterpart of PCT/US99/22402 and U.S. Patent No. 6,514,938 (Items 49 and 23 respectively) as well as the parent of the subject application;
- 29. Pending claims as of March 1, 2004 of U.S. Serial No. 09/816,989 (Gad et al.)(Item 28)., U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020115103 A1, for the Examiner's convenience, (Exhibit 3)
- 30. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2003-0004099-A1, published January 2, 2003 (Eisenbach-Schwartz et al.);
- 31. U.S. Serial No. 09/359,099, filed July 22, 1999 (Strominger et al.);
- 32. U.S. Serial No. 09/487,793, filed January 20, 2000;
- 33. U.S. Serial No. 09/620,216, filed July 20, 2000;
- 34. U.S. Serial No. 09/765,301. Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of PCT International Application No. PCT/US01/02118 (WO 01/93893) (Item 54);

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35. U.S. Serial No. 09/765,644. Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of PCT International Application No. PCT/US01/02117 (WO 01/52878) (Item 52);

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- 37. U.S. Serial No. 09/885,227, filed June 20, 2001 (Rodriguez and Ure);
- 38. PCT International Application No. PCT/US88/02139 (WO 88/10120), published December 29, 1988 (Weiner et al.);
- 39. PCT International Application No. PCT/EP91/01420(WO 92/ 02543), published February 20, 1992 (Gaeta et al.);
- 40. PCT International Application No. PCT/US93/06249(WO 94/03484), published February 17, 1994 (McLean et al.). Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,052 (Item 8) and U.S. Patent No. 5,886,156 (Item 15);
- 41. PCT International Application No. PCT/US94/05632 (WO 94/26774), published November 24, 1994 (Alexander et al.);
- 42. PCT International Application No. PCT/US95/04121 (WO 95/26980), published October 12, 1995 (Hackett et al.);
- 43. PCT International Application No. PCT/US94/05697 (WO 95/31997), published November 30, 1995 (Reid et al.);

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44. PCT International Application No. PCT/US95/06551 (WO 95/31990), published November 30, 1995 (Konfino et al.). Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of U.S. Patents Nos. 5,800,808 (Item 13) and 6,342,476 (Item 21);

- 45. PCT International Application No. PCT/EP95/02125 (WO 95/33475), published December 14, 1995 (Kott et al.);
- 46. PCT International Application No. PCT/US98/00375 (WO 98/30227), published July 16, 1998 (Arnon et al.).

 Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of US Patent No. 6,214,791 (Item 20);
- 47. PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/16617 (WO 00/05249) published February 3, 2000 (Strominger et al). Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of U.S. Serial No. 09/359,099 (Item 31);
- 48. PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/16747 (WO 00/05250) published February 3, 2000 (Aharoni et al.);
- 49. PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/22402 (WO 00/18794) published April 6, 2000 (Gad, et al.). Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of U.S. Patent No. 6,514,938 (Item 23) and U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020115103 (Item 28);
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- 55. PCT International Application No. PCT/US01/18248 (WO 01/93828) published December 13, 2001 (Yong and Chabot). Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of U.S. Serial No. 09/875,429 (Item 36);
- 56. PCT International Application No. PCT/US01/19649 (WO 01/97846) published December 27, 2001 (Rodriguez and Ure). Applicants point out that this reference is a counterpart of U.S. Serial No. 09/885,227 (Item 37);
- 57. European Patent Application No. 0 383 620 A2, published August 22, 1990 (Cook);
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Applicants request that the Examiner review the publications and make them of record in the subject application.